



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016907/1569

In re patent application of
Hiroshi WATANABE et al.

Serial No. 10/612,405

Group Art Unit: 2854

Filed: July 3, 2003

Examiner: Charles H. Nolan, Jr.

For: TIME LIMIT FUNCTION UTILIZATION APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2005, Applicants hereby elect claims 1-24, directed to a time limit function utilization apparatus, for prosecution in the subject application.

Applicants note that the election requirement is more properly characterized as being based on a restriction between combination and subcombination.

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the non-elected subject matter and/or to receive consideration of claims to additional species as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, upon allowance of any claim that is generic, and/or claims directed to combinations that include the features of an allowed subcombination claim.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

March 3, 2005

Date

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